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The Mt. Vernon Democratic Banner
IS PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING,
BY L. HARPER.

Office in Woodward's Block, Third Story.

TERMS—Two Dollars per annum, payable in advance; \$2.50 within six months; \$3.00 after expiration of the year. Clubs of twenty, \$1.50 each.

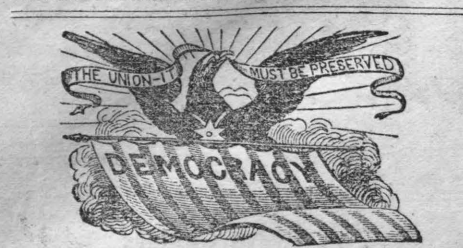
RATES OF ADVERTISING.

| | 1 week. | 2 weeks. | 3 weeks. | 4 weeks. | 1 month. | 2 months. | 3 months. | 4 months. | 5 months. | 6 months. | 7 months. | 8 months. | 9 months. | 1 year. |
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| 1 square. | \$ c. 1 00 | \$ c. 1 25 | \$ c. 1 50 | \$ c. 1 75 | \$ c. 2 00 | \$ c. 3 50 | \$ c. 5 00 | \$ c. 6 50 | \$ c. 8 00 | \$ c. 9 50 | \$ c. 11 00 | \$ c. 12 50 | \$ c. 14 00 | \$ c. 15 50 |
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| 1 square, changeable monthly. | | | | | | \$ 10 weekly. | | | | | | | | \$ 12 |
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The Democratic Banner

EDITED BY L. HARPER.

"HE IS A FREEMAN WHOM THE TRUTH MAKES FREE."



MOUNT VERNON, OHIO:

TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 17, 1857.

We are indebted to Hon. George W. True, for a copy of Senate Bill, No. 222, to secure the safety of passengers on Railroads, and to create the office of Railroad Commissioner.

What is the World Coming to?

When we were at the Editorial Convention at Mansfield, we gave it as our opinion that the Millennium was near at hand; and we arrived at this conclusion at seeing so many editors of different political opinions, meeting together as a band of brothers, in the most cordial and friendly manner, and forgetting all political differences. But we are afraid our hopes are not soon to be realized. The world seems to be too deeply steeped in sin and wickedness to suppose that the period is near at hand when "the lion and the lamb shall lie down together."

Our exchanges from all parts of the country are filled with overflows, with bloody murders and horrible crimes. It is enough to sicken the heart to read these dreadful details. We could doubly fill the columns of the *Banner* each week with this kind of literature, to the exclusion of every thing else.

On the first page of to-day's paper, we present to our readers an account of a most fiendish and mysterious murder, committed in the city of New York. In reading this account every person must come to the conclusion that all the facts and circumstances of the case, place Mrs. Cunningham and the man Eckel in a very unenviable position. They may be innocent of the murder of Dr. Burdell, but it is hard to get over the accumulated evidence against them. We cannot see how it is possible for them to explain away the facts.

We publish, also, an account of a late exciting case at Boston, wherein very grave charges, sustained by affidavit, are brought against the Rev. Mr. Kallach, a distinguished clergyman of that city. The friends of the gentleman pretend to say that the whole affair is a conspiracy; and a committee of the members of his church, who have investigated the matter, declare that he is innocent of the crime charged against him. If this is so, it must follow, as a matter of course, that Mr. Bailey, the landlord at Charleston, has committed base perjury.

The Burdell Murder.

Our latest advices from New York, the Coroner's Inquest was still in session, investigating the facts connected with the murder of Dr. Burdell. The circumstantial evidence is very strong against Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham. If the testimony of Farrell is to be relied upon, it is the next thing almost to positive proof that Eckel was engaged in the murder. But it seems a little strange, that when the cry of murder, and a fall upon the floor were heard, Eckel should coolly come down stairs, in his shirt sleeves, open the front door, and order this man Farrell to leave! It appears to us an improbable story, and yet it may be true, nevertheless.

The Coroner appears to have very inflated ideas of his own importance; and instead of endeavoring to find out who committed the murder, he appears to think that he is both a criminal judge and prosecutor, and it is his duty to convict Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham!

The following are our latest despatches relative to the investigation:

New York, Feb. 10.

The proceedings in the Burdell inquest this morning were not very important.

Dr. Burdell's ledger was produced, which contained a charge entered on the 28th of October, in his own hand-writing, showing that he was actually in the city on the day of the alleged murder. This fact is confirmed by a Director of the Artisans' Bank, who states that Burdell attended a meeting of the Board on that day.

In the afternoon a Mr. Farrell testified that on the night of the murder, he was passing by Burdell's house, about half past ten, he heard a cry of murder and a fall; he stopped to listen, when a man in his shirt sleeves opened Burdell's front door and ordered him away. Farrell was subsequently carried into another room, where, among a number of persons he pointed out Eckel as the man. The latter appeared dumbfounded, but uttered no words.

New York, Feb. 11.

But little additional testimony in the Burdell inquest was elicited after Farrell's testimony yesterday. An attempt was made to identify Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham as the parties who entered a store on Friday previous to the murder for the purpose of purchasing a dagger, but the witness failed to identify them.

Mrs. Cunningham was last evening committed to the Tombs at the conclusion of Farrell's testimony, who swore to hearing the cry of murder in Burdell's house on the fatal Friday night, and that while he was stopping to listen, a man in his shirt sleeves opened the front door and ordered him away.

Dr. Burdell's Opinion of Mrs. Cunningham.

A lady witness states that on Monday before the murder, she visited Dr. Burdell, and in a conversation with her he said of Mrs. C. "that she was the most horrible woman he ever met; he said she was very artful, and she was capable of doing anything to accomplish what she undertook; he told me that he suspected foul play, and that he did not like the way they were prowling about the house at night; he mentioned no names to me whatever; he said they were prowling about the house at night, and that he had lost papers; that the key of his safe was gone; and that indeed nothing was private with him; he said: 'Thank Heaven! I will get rid of them all on the 1st of May'; he said, also, that she would outwit the devil; that he would rather be in the hands of the devil himself than in the hands of a woman like her; he seemed very much annoyed and troubled, and he said he would never make a contract with another woman."

The Democratic Executive Committee of Hamilton county, met on Saturday week last, and re-nominated John P. Stoughton, Esq., for the Legislature. In the evening there was an immense ratification meeting, which was addressed by Hon. Stanley Matthews and T. J. Gallagher, Esq. The indications are that Mr. Slough will be returned to the Legislature by an increased majority.

The Cabinet.

The Eastern papers contain all sorts of speculations in regard to Mr. BUCHANAN'S Cabinet; but they are of course nothing but speculations, as no one is authorized to speak positively on the subject. It seems to be the general impression, however, that Judge BLACK of Pennsylvania, HOWELL COBB of Georgia, Senator BRIGHT of Indiana, and Governor FLOYD of Virginia, will be invited to take seats in the Cabinet. The first named gentleman, Judge BLACK, we have long regarded as one of the purest, ablest and truest Democrats now living in the United States; and we would certainly be rejoiced to hear of his elevation to a place in Mr. BUCHANAN'S Cabinet.

We fully endorse the remarks of the *Pittsburgh Union*, when it says that Judge BLACK has one of those clear, bold minds that grasps every element of greatness, and makes each add to the wealth of their accomplishments. He scorns petty quibbles and special pleadings, and seizes hold of the fundamental principles of whatever he may investigate. The style of his writings is, of course typical of his intellect—vigorous, lucid, polished, convincing, irresistible. Whatever the cry of law, philosophy, politics, or literature, he investigates, as if touched by the magic wand of some enchantment, becomes as transparent as sunlight. He scatters error and holds up truth—blows away chaff and preserves the wheat. But we need not speak of his merits where he is so well known, and so much admired. In one word, he has a whole head full of brains, and is in every way fully, peculiarly qualified to be the successor of Mr. Marcy.

Mr. Buchanan's Cabinet.

We have no intention, (remarks the *Washington Union*), of indulging in any conjectures or speculations as to the probable composition of Mr. Buchanan's cabinet, nor of engaging in any discussion as to the claims of sections or States, or of the qualifications of individuals for cabinet appointments. Our object is to express the conviction we feel, that when the cabinet is announced it will command the public confidence, and be regarded as a sure indication of the wise discrimination and the enlightened patriotism with which Mr. Buchanan has taken the first great step in his administration. We believe it is generally known that one of the objects of his late visit to Washington was to lend a willing ear to all the suggestions and views which any of his political friends might choose to make. We believe that it is now still better known that he proved himself a most patient and discreet listener, whilst he not only kept his counsel, but kept his mind open to be profited by all that he might hear. Our confidence in his fitness for the responsible duties of his position is greatly increased by the fact that whilst Mr. Buchanan was accessible to all, yet that he left without having dropped a single remark which was inconsistent with his avowed purpose to reserve his mind uncommitted until he had acquired all the information within his reach. We doubt not that he has obtained the information he desired, and the result will be the formation of a cabinet which will rally to his support the cordial and united approval of the national men throughout the country. Speculations as to the individuals who may compose it are naturally made, but no one can do more than speculate. We are content to await the announcement, and to look for it with the most perfect assurance that the cabinet will be such as to vindicate the wisdom of the people in placing Mr. Buchanan in the Executive chair.

When we wrote the brief article acquitting Major SAPP of the authorship of the celebrated "Pier Letter," we supposed there would be no occasion to refer to the matter again; but as the editor of the *Republican* is anxious to make it appear that we were actuated by feelings of "malice" in publishing the letter, we deem it proper to allude to the subject once more. We deny most positively and emphatically that we harbor the slightest feelings of malice towards Major SAPP, or that we ever have had any desire to do him a personal injury. We have opposed him politically with all the energy we could command, both on the stump and through the columns of our paper; and shall do so again, if he is the opposition candidate.

The "Pier Letter," as we have heretofore stated, was brought to us by Mr. Pier himself, (who is a relative of Major SAPP), in company with Mr. John Irvine of this place. We questioned him particularly about the letter, and from the character of his conversation, we were satisfied that he was confident the letter was genuine. After he left, and before we published the letter, we showed it to several gentlemen, all of whom, we believe, expressed the opinion that it was genuine. Under these circumstances, we deemed it to be our duty as a public journalist, to publish the letter in our columns. At the same time we made every effort to Major SAPP and his friends to test the genuineness of the letter, as we were determined to do him no injustice in the matter. And when a committee of his friends called upon us to see the letter, and produced one that was genuine, we at once declared that the "Pier Letter," was not written by Major SAPP, and although our paper was then nearly all set up, we made room for a brief paragraph giving the result of our convictions.

After this statement of facts, for any one to say that we harbor feelings of "malice" is simply absurd. We would be sorry to do him a personal injury, however much we may disagree in politics. As a public man, a politician and a member of Congress, his acts are public property, and a fit subject for newspaper comment. Of these we have spoken freely. If we had the slightest suspicions that the Pier letter was not genuine, we certainly should not have published it in our paper.

Stick it at Them.

The Black Republicans promised that if they obtained power in the General Assembly they would "retrench and reform"—they would practice economy and thereby relieve the tax ridden people of Ohio. Instead of practicing on this principle, they called an extra session which cost the people nearly \$100,000, which they raised the salaries of the Common Pleas Judges from \$1500 to \$2000, and the Supreme Judges from \$1700 to \$2500 per year. They appointed a lot of smelling committees, with clerks, sergeants-at-arms, &c., who perambulate the State under the pretense of examining its institutions at an enormous cost to the people of Ohio. They raised the pay of jurors from \$1.00 per day to \$1.50. Tax-payers, is this the retrenchment and reform you were promised? Have your taxes diminished, or is there the slightest hope they will be reduced? When you deposit your votes next fall think of these things.

Abolition Financiering.

Corruption at the Capitol—Great wrongs in the Sale of Ohio Bonds!

\$144,000 Sunk in one year by Abolition Rule!

The present State debt of Ohio, every body is aware of, is a high rate of taxation, which was occasioned by the enormous sacrifice made in the sale of the bonds of the State of Ohio by Alfred Kelley and confederates in order to build the public works of Ohio and pay the interest on the debts already contracted. Ohio bonds were sold by Alfred for fifty cents on the dollar.

But in a few years afterwards the Democracy came into power—Alfred Kelley lost his position in the political world, and became a railroad speculator. The credit of the State was restored to above par—and immense sums were saved by Democratic officers in paying off the State debts by taxation.

Last year Abolitionism obtained control of the State Government, and Alfred Kelley turned up in the Ohio Senate. Here we will let the *Ohio Eagle*, published at Lancaster, Fairfield county, tell the balance of the history:

"Fusion FINANCIERING.—It will be remembered by our readers that, during the last year of the Democratic administration in Ohio, nearly half a million of State debt was paid off. During the campaign of 1855, Gov. Chase and the smaller fry of Abolition orators and politicians played the part of demagogues before the people by complaining of high taxes and especially condemning the policy of the Democratic State debt by a gradual and annual reduction—and some of them suggested and advocated the plan of meeting maturing debts, asserting her bonds at a large premium and pocketing the premium. One of Chase's cheap Judges, Brinkerhoff, was the reputed author of a very foolish article upon this subject. It seems that their plan has to be given up. Chase in his message says, 'experience indicates the danger of relying upon new loans for the payment of maturing debts.' It was confidently anticipated that this loan would command a premium of at least nine or ten per cent, while the premium actually realized was only three and a half. It is not difficult to conceive of a state of the money market in which the bonds of the State could not be negotiated at par. In such a case a resort to a new loan would be attended with great pecuniary loss." So much for the policy. But what was to direct the attention of the tax payers of Fairfield to, is the transactions above referred to by Gov. Chase, and so briefly alluded to in his message. A portion of our State debt fell due, amounting to about \$2,400,000. The fusion financiers undertook to pay it off by obtaining a new loan for that amount.

The sale of the bonds of the rich and prosperous State of Ohio was advertised in papers in both Europe and America. On the 1st of October last, the \$2,400,000 in bonds was sold at a premium of three and one half per cent. only. Our virtuous Governor did not have the nerve to denounce this transaction in his message, nor state to whom he sold them. He merely said, 'but refers to the Report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. The message will be read every where, but few will ever see the Commissioners Report. If there has been a great wrong done here, the Governor has made an 'Artful Dodge' of himself to screen it.

It seems that the bonds "were awarded to the highest bidder for the lowest amount. Some of them have been awarded separately for a higher premium. Now, what are the facts in regard to the value of State Stocks, at the time of sale. New York State Stocks were selling for 15 and 16 per cent. premium. U. S. Stocks were selling for about the same. Ohio Stocks have commanded 11 and 12 per cent. premium, and the Governor thought they at least should have brought 9 or 10 per cent; furthermore we have examined the Stock quotations for 1st November, 1856, and we find them selling for \$1.06 and 1.03, and we have been told that they are now worth \$1.11.

They should be valuable as New York Stocks. Ohio the third State in the Union in wealth and population, surpassingly prosperous and possessing every element of State wealth, and always paying for them as high as any State or nation in the world. This transaction bears every mark of mystery and speculation, and we demand that "the Smelling Committees" throw the light of their dark lantern upon it. Taxpayers, take your pencils and make the calculation for yourselves. If there were, as advertised, \$1,000,000 of Ohio Stocks were really worth that in the market at the time of the sale, the State has been swindled out of 6 per cent, on \$2,400,000 making the enormous sum of \$144,000 by this one transaction, and somebody has reaped a rich harvest through "corruption in high places." If this matter can be honestly and satisfactorily explained, we will have justice for those whom we now denounce; if not, we will again give it our attention.

The Coldest Day.

The severity of the present winter has not been exceeded since 1835, and from the record before us, it would seem that the temperature on Saturday, the 24th, throughout the Northern and Middle States, was even colder than on any day of that memorable year. In the Southern States the temperature at that time was lower than it has been during this season. The following table shows the state of the thermometer on the 24th, at those points from which we have received information by telegraph, or otherwise:

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Halifax, N. S., | -20. | Montreal, Can., | -35. |
| St. John's, N. S., | -20. | Salem, Mass., | -24. |
| Sackville, N. B., | -22. | Worcester, Mass., | -24. |
| Frederickton, N. B., | -20. | Providence, R. I., | -28. |
| Calais, Me., | -39. | N. Haven, Conn., | -27. |
| Bangor, Me., | -44. | Hardford, Conn., | -32. |
| Portland, Me., | -25. | Troy, N. Y., | -26. |
| Manchester, N. H., | -25. | Albany, N. Y., | -27. |
| Dover, N. H., | -31. | New York, | -6. |
| Wilmington, Vt., | -43. | Philadelphia, | -5. |
| Montpelier, Vt., | -11. | Washington, | -9. |
| Boston, Mass., | -11. | Baltimore, | -5. |
| E. Cambridge, Mass., | -23. | Alexandria, Va., | -8. |
| Malden, Mass., | -31. | Charleston, S. C., | -12. |
| Lawrence, Mass., | -32. | Tallahassee, Fla., | -10. |
| Springfield, Mass., | -32. | | |

Bangor, Me., must have been decidedly Arctic on the 24th. Such an atmosphere would suggest an Esquimaux costume and a diet of walrus meat. We recommend all individuals who are desirous of imitating Dr. Kane's exploits and endurance, to go through a winter of preparatory experience in Bangor. It might be well to initiate, also, to professors of the Terpsichorean art, that they could do a service to humanity, and fill their pockets by teaching the people of Bangor to dance—that being a graceful exercise, calculated to keep mortality from the condition of an icicle.

FILE YOUR NEWSPAPERS.—Every person who takes a newspaper, (and especially weekly papers), should keep files of it, and every two or three years get them bound. Every man who does this, leaves a valuable book to his memory, and value the bequest more than ten times the cost. A newspaper is the best history of the times which can be found. After a long lapse of time, they are resorted to by scholars and antiquarians with great interest.

BEWARE.—Bills purporting to be of the denomination of ten dollars changed from ones on the Southern Bank of Indiana at Terra Haute, are in circulation. They are well executed and calculated to deceive even good judges. Two are also altered to tens on the same bank. We can only say to our readers look sharp at ten dollar bills on this bank.

Pen, Paste and Scissors.

The village of Newark, Ohio, is to be lighted with gas.

Mr. Crawford, the American Sculptor, is seriously ill, at Rome.

Ex Senator Merriack, of Maryland, died at Washington, on Thursday last.

The incorporated village of Mansfield is about to become a city of the second class.

Navigation on the Muskingum is now fully open.

A man was four days last week in reaching Albany from New York, by railroad.

Rev. Dr. Kindred Baptist Missionary to Burmah, has arrived in Philadelphia.

Protestants are increasing rapidly in Germany.

The Legislature of Iowa has voted \$100,000, for Lunatic Asylum.

Wood is \$5 a cord and the thermometer 20° below zero in "bleeding Kansas."

John D. Caldwell, Esq., has been elected editor of the *Ohio Journal of Education*.

On the 26th ult., there was in the U. S. Treasury, subject to draft, \$21,496,881.

The price of silk is said to be advancing rapidly.

Chicago is before the Legislature for quite a number of Insurance charters.

There were 412,000 bushels of corn shipped from Pekin, Fulton county, last year.

A new type setting machine has been invented in New York.

Last year there were 23,000 pupils in the public schools of Boston.

A bill to repeal the usury laws is before the New York Legislature.

The income of the common school fund of Indiana last year was \$387,371.

The Indianapolis Sentinel says that the Bank of Plymouth is a regular wild cat concern.

The sums expended for township libraries in Indiana last year was \$91,480.

Lots in Lawrence, K. T., have doubled in value in the last four months.

During December the coining at the mint in Philadelphia amounted to \$424,535.

There were harvested 87,587,459 bushels of corn in Ohio last year.

In the harbor bill before Congress \$137,000 is appropriated for Chicago.

The Quincy bankers won't take the bills of the free banks of Indiana.

The town of Wingsville, Ohio, was destroyed by fire last week—only one house remained.

Judge Stewart announces that he will practice law in the counties of Richland, Ashland and Morrow.

A meeting was held in Kalamazoo, the other day, in relation to the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad.

The official vote of El Paso county, Texas, is given as 1022 for Buchanan, for Fillmore none, for Fremont none.

The total amount of banking capital in the city of New York is \$59,263,000. The whole number of banks is 56.

The first twenty-five miles of the Galveston and Henderson (Texas) railroad will be in operation by the first of May.

During the winter the citizens of Augusta, Ga., have contributed \$5,650 to the relief of the poor among them.

The Government General of Canada has issued his proclamation summoning the Legislature to meet in Toronto on the 26th of February.

The Indiana House of Representatives has passed a bill to repeal the liquor law of 1855 by a vote of 70 to 8.

The city of Natchez in not only out of debt, but has a surplus of over six thousand dollars in her treasury.

The Victoria Railroad Bridge over the St. Lawrence, at Montreal, is to cost about \$1,000,000.

A thousand acres of land have been given at Carbondale, Illinois, for the site of the first college in that part of Illinois, known as 'Egypt.'

In the year ending the 31st of last March the salaries of the English Royal Household and tradesmen's bills were £371,800.

The failure of the Gramercy and Shawnee Banks has created quite an excitement in Indiana.

A bill is before the Legislature of Ohio, providing for the codification of the laws of that State.

The Republicans of Pennsylvania are to hold a State Convention at Harrisburg, on the 25th of March, to nominate a State ticket.

The New Haven postmaster has established a one cent city mailing and distributing system, with sixteen places of deposit about town.

The other day they had a ball over at Cynthiana. The *Age* says some of the ladies were sable and other skins on their shoulders; others had bare skins! Shocking.

The St. Paul Democrat says that the new State of Minnesota will contain more valuable land and more navigable waters than any State in the Union.

Rev. Joseph Alden D. D., Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in Lafayette College, has been chosen President of Jefferson College, Canonsburg.

The Presbyterians of Scotland are in the midst of an excited controversy on the question of the introduction of organs into their churches.

Kah gega gan-bonn, alias George Cobway, Ojibway Chief, landed in the Tennessee to join the force of Gen. Walker at Nicaragua.

The following atrocity was committed by an old bachelor, in Wisconsin, who is an editor: Why is the bridegroom more expensive than the bride? Because the bride is always given away, while the bridegroom is usually sold.

In Salem, Illinois, a woman, aged about twenty-six years, has been asleep about three days, perfectly motionless and silent, with a very faint pulse and dry skin. All efforts to awaken her unavailing.

A modern Casper Hauser, in the person of an unknown deaf and dumb lad, about 12 years of age, and covered with innumerable scars from the head to toes, is creating some sensation in Berlin.

The Canton Repository says that Mr. F. Reynolds, of Waynesburg, Stark county, recovered of a Mr. Greer, \$2,500 in an action for slander; the defendant having falsely reported that the plaintiff had failed and assigned his property.

There is a ball to be given in Cincinnati on the 23d inst., the proceeds of which go towards making up a fund for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of Gen. Harrison.

Owl Creek and Walhonding Valley Railroad.

In the last number of the *Republican* is an article signed by Mr. Eli Nichols, treating of a subject in which we are all decidedly interested. While we are glad to see an interest taken in the subject of railroads, we cannot but regret that some matters contained in that article had not been omitted. The constant fault found with the city authorities here we cannot but regard as undeserved by them, and very ill calculated to beget in the minds of our people that cordial cooperation in the enterprise so desirable and necessary. Nor do we deem it at all necessary to find fault with the enterprise already under progress to Lakeview.

These two roads are not necessarily antagonistic. The Springfield, Mt. Vernon and Pittsburgh Road will, no doubt, have secured to it by the two roads, with which it connects at Pittsburgh and Cincinnati, a most excellent business between these two points. While the road to Coshocton may, if prudently made and managed, with the good will and co-operation of the S. M. V. & P. Road, do a decidedly handsome business, also. As I view this matter, it is of the first importance with the line to Coshocton to cultivate and secure the most kindly relations with the S. M. & P. Road. Over it must be the outlet to the west, and its inlet from the west for the Valley line. And there will doubtless be business for both roads to do if managed in proper spirit.

With these modifications, we concur in general with the views of Mr. Nichols' article. We are really glad to see a gentleman of the large fortune of Mr. Nichols taking such interest in this highly cherished enterprise. We agree with him that in the mere article of coal, this road is of great and paramount importance to Mt. Vernon, and every town along the whole line of both the S. M. & P. Road, and the Owl Creek Valley Road. If, in addition to this local advantage, there be secured to this road a reasonable share of the business from Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, west, and from the west in return to these two leading points, few, if any, better railroad investments can be found in the State. An independent road, with these advantages secured, from Mt. Vernon to Coshocton, connecting at the latter point with the Steubenville & Indiana Road and at the former with the Owl Creek Valley and the S. M. & P. Road, must of necessity be a fair paying road.

We hope to see the time, and that not distant, when this will all be done. But allow me here to suggest, that the first step to be taken is to secure to this road these proper guaranties of business.

An independent company is organized with express reference to this enterprise, and will be glad to receive the co-operation of all the men along the line and elsewhere, interested in the completion of the work.

The question may be asked, why organize an independent company?

The answer is easy, being to avoid the embarrassments which already weigh down both of the companies connecting with it.

Efforts are now steadily but quietly being made to secure to this Valley line the business desired, and if this can be consummated all will be right, and the road can certainly be made, and made a good investment for all the capital required to build and equip it.

Hoping that good may result from all that has been said, I subscribe myself,

Yours respectfully, &c.,

M. H. M.

The Investigating Committee—Some of the Evidence.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times thus refers to his testimony before the Investigating Committee of the House of Representatives:

I swear positively that I had no legal knowledge of a criminal act or bargain, although I cheerfully designated witnesses who could and did testify positively to such acts. For example, I gave the committee the name of a witness who desired the passage of a bill last winter, authorizing the purchase of a book of which he was the proprietor, and who was obliged to agree to pay fifteen thousand dollars as the condition of its passage. I gave them also the name of a witness who knew of this transaction—who was privy to the arrangement, and who knew what members of Congress were to receive a portion of the sum thus stipulated to be paid. I put them also in the way of obtaining possession of the written order of the book upon the Clerk of the House, directing him to pay the sum of \$15,000 to the person who it was agreed should receive it for distribution. This evidence is now in possession of the committee.

THE WASHINGTON UNION.—The New York Post has a Washington correspondent, who says: The Union newspaper, which is designated as Mr. Buchanan's official organ, will undergo a complete change, under the management of John Appleton, of Maine. It will be published with new type, in quarto form, like the *London Times*, with a variety of departments, for the purpose, of adding to its interest as a miscellaneous journal. It is also intended to have a correspondent at every American legation, to insure valuable and correct information from abroad. For the foreign department, a gentleman has been suggested of distinguished qualifications, but whose political affinities are not considered as in harmony with the incoming Administration.

Terrific Explosion and Loss of Life. BUFFALO, Feb. 11.

The boiler connected with the machinery used to drive the pumps of P. D. Burton's section of Canal enlargement, near Black Rock Dam, exploded about one o'clock this afternoon, totally demolishing the building in which it was enclosed, instantly killing John Slouthern, engineer, John Rider, fireman, and five laborers who were working in the canal, near the building, and seriously injuring several others. The explosion was terrific, tearing the boiler into shreds, scattering the pieces in every direction. The windows and doors in the vicinity were shattered from the concussion with flying fragments. The coroner held an inquest this afternoon, the result of which has not transpired.

Creation of the Human Race. Dr. Hitchcock, the eminent geologist, said in a recent discourse at Albany, that geological science places man among the most recent of created things. We find the surface of the earth composed to the depth of some eight or ten miles of rocks. These rocks are full of the remains of animals and plants. Thirty thousand species of them, which differ from any living species, have been discovered, yet no human remains are found among them. The loose soil, alluvial—is a recent deposit, which is universally acknowledged to be of recent origin. The remains of other animals are found several thousand feet below the surface, while the fossil remains of man have never been found so low as one hundred feet below the surface. But, if man had been in existence when these other animals lived whose remains were found at such depths, his bones would also have been found there, for his bones are of the same structure as theirs, and consequently no less likely to resist destruction.

A Husband Poisoned by his Wife. BOSTON, Feb. 11.

Strange developments have been made in relation to the death of Mr. Gardner, late postmaster at Hingham, and his wife has been arrested on suspicion of having poisoned him. The stomach of the deceased had been analyzed by Dr. Sack, who found arsenic sufficient to cause death. An inquest is now being held at Hingham. Mrs. Gardner is a native of Maine, and is 40 years of age.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.

HOUSE.—The House passed by a vote of 119 against 38, Mr. Chapman's bill for a wagon road to the Pacific.

The pending question was stated to be on the motion of Mr. Barbour to suspend rules to enable him to introduce a resolution from the Judiciary Committee, declaring that John C. Watrous, U. S. District Judge for the District of Texas, be impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Mr. Letcher said that these were serious charges, and that the report of the Committee on the case was read. Report was read, and specific charges are made against Judge Watrous of corrupt abominations, for the determination of suits in this court, and of having acted with partiality and in disregard of all rules of law and rights of litigants.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.

SENATE.—Mr. Pearce gave notice of his intention to introduce a bill providing for the time and manner of the election of Senators of the United States by the Legislatures of several States. Additional documents are received from the President relative to the proclamation of martial law in Washington Territory by Gov. Stevens.

Mr. Rusk moved the reference of the credentials of Mr. Fitch

